

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4853

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, MX

SUBJ: TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE OF MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL ABOUT
GENERAL POPP CASE

REF: MEXICO 6037, 6161, STATE 116859,

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT RELEASED TO PRESS YESTERDAY
MAY 12 BY MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS
TODAY. (EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION).

"THE REPORTS APPEARING IN THE PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPERS
OF THE COUNTRY INDICATING THAT THE TIRE COMPANY GENERAL
POPO, S.A., HAS BRIBED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEXICAN OF-
FICIALS IN ORDER TO RAISE ITS SALES PRICES RESULTED
IN IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE RE-
PUBLIC, WHO PROCEEDED TO ASK THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED
STATES IN OUR COUNTRY, AND IN WASHINGTON THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE, FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTATION WHICH
EXISTS IN THIS CASE AND FOR THE COMPLAINT PRE-
SENTED BY THE SEC.

"THE SAME DAY (DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY) IN WHICH
THE NOTICE APPEARED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL COMMISSIONED
A GROUP OF SPECIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS IN ORDER TO
PROCEED TO TAKE STATEMENTS OF ALL THE PERSONS WHO
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COULD BE IMPLICATED IN THIS CASE, STARTING IMMEDIAT-

ELY, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF EXPERTS FROM THE DIRECTORY OF AUDIT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE TREASURY AND PUBLIC CREDIT, IN ASSURING THE FISCAL DOCUMENTATION OF THE GENERAL POPO COMPANY, AS WELL AS OF THE NATIONAL RUBBER INDUSTRY CHAMBER.

"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS ALREADY COUNTING ON STATEMENTS OF TWENTY PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY THE SPECIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYES WITHOUT UNTIL THIS TIME HAVING FOUND ANYTHING AGAINST MEXICAN OFFICIALS. THE PERSONS WHO HAVE GIVEN STATEMENTS ARE: NOE ALJANDRO LECONA SANCHEZ, CURRENT DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RUBBER INDUSTRY CHAMBER; LICENCIADO ANTONIO NAVARRO, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CHAMBER AND THE ONE WHO INTERVENED BEFORE THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF TIRES AND TUBES WHICH WERE AUTHORIZED IN 1974; THOMAS JOSEPH FAHEY, GENERAL MANAGER OF GENERAL POPO; ALFONSO SAAVEDRA BRAVO, CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION OF THE SAME FIRM; RAMON ARNALDO RUMBANT FERNANDEZ DE CASTRO, TREASURER; JAIME OLGUIN FUENTES, CONTROLLER; AND OSCAR HERHANDEZ MELENDEZ, FINANCIAL DIRECTOR. ON ITS PART THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAS TAKEN THE STATEMENTS OF LUIS GATICA SUAREZ, FORMER CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PRICES AND CURRENTLY SUBDIRECTOR OF THE COST-PRICE UNIT; AND HECTOR DIAZ RIVAS, TECHNICAL SUBDIRECTOR OF THE DIRECTORY GENERAL OF PRICES OF THE SAME OFFICE.

"HE HAS ALSO EXAMINED ELEVEN REPRESENTATIVES OF TRANSPORT COMPANIES WHICH SERVICE GENERAL POPO, WITH THE OBJECT OF KNOWING IF THE COMPANY EXTENDED RECEIPTS FOR QUANTITIES MORE THAN IT PAYED FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

"ONE AWAITS THE JUDGEMENTS THE FISCAL EXPERTS WILL RENDER WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION OF GENERAL POPO, AS WELL AS THE STATEMENTS FROM THE HIGH OFFICIALS OF FIVE OTHER IMPORTANT COMPANIES
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PRODUCING TIRES AND TUBES IN THE COUNTRY." END
TEXT.

SEE SEPTTEL FOR PRESS INQUIRY TO AMBASSADOR JOVA
OF MAY 13.
JOVA

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